

Wednesday, 13 December 2017

I've been a proud supporter of The Lions Medical Research Foundation since I came to Queensland from Melbourne in 1985. This letter is written to encourage you and your club to be supporters too, and to see what we can achieve together to improve the health of Queensland and the world. The Foundation has, over the years, funded many leading medical researchers in Queensland at a critical stage of their careers when they were establishing their independence and putting their great new ideas to the test. The LMRF funding can be transformative, freeing up the researcher from writing grant applications for their own salary, and allowing them to do smart stuff, potentially changing people's lives for the better.

I was really pleased to receive the initial offer of funding support from Lions Medical Research Foundation, which was key to my decision to come to Queensland from Melbourne. Funding from LMRF to my lab in the 1980s allowed me to leverage substantial extra funding from elsewhere, and contributed directly to the development in Queensland of the vaccines (Gardasil and Cervarix) now used worldwide to help prevent cervical cancer. To be blunt, I couldn't have done it without the support of Lions clubs like yours and mine (I'm a longstanding member of the Lions Club of Brisbane Inner West). Now I'm asking you to help LMRF to carry on what they do so well – funding new youth researchers.

Medical research has, over the last 50 years, enabled changes to our health that have prolonged our average lifespan by nearly 10 years, and, more importantly, have given us the means to prevent, or detect early, some of the serious health problems that we are at risk of as we grow older. But there are many health challenges that impact on every family for which we still need solutions. These include Alzheimers disease, childhood cancers, and epidemic infections including 'flu and Zikavirus. Your contribution to the Lions Medical Research Foundation can make a real difference, and they desperately need your help to enable them to carry on the good work that they do. Every dollar of your contributions helps to support local researchers doing research that will impact locally. I urge your club to give Lions MRF regular support: you will see the benefits.

Best wishes



Lion Ian Frazer AC